

declaration of the superiority of the white race, or a panic-stricken warning of the yellow peril.

The idea that fifty years ago the Japanese were semi-barbarians was one of the gravest errors of European public opinion. On the contrary, all the elements of our own civilisation were existent: administration, civil service, priesthood, army, education, science, art, industry, organised commerce and shipping—an effete civilisation, it is true, but the conditions for a strong development were there. The success of the Japanese nation has been due to three circumstances: the excellent qualities of the race, the rational utilisation of these qualities, and the eminent ability of its leaders. The latter came of excellent stock, and their education tended to develop self-control, concentration on an ideal, perseverance and love of country. The people these men were called to lead were healthy, plain-living, industrious. Their main characteristic was an intense feeling of social responsibility, “a life of each for weal of all.”

Is it surprising, then, that Japan has prevented the white races from assuming tutelage over the yellow races? And if three hundred millions are entering on a phase of development that at present justifies the expression ‘yellow peril,’ then the waking up of the Far East must be the alarm for an equally vigorous waking up of the white races.

If the multiplication of the unfit be discouraged in Europe, if the rising generation emulate the yellow races in their practical idealism, if unity between the white races be fostered, there will be no necessity for considering whether we are to be superseded by the Mongolians. Even if we do show signs of decadence, was Japan in a better plight sixty years ago? A handful of able young men and women with a set and steadfast purpose can stem the downward movement of a nation and direct it again towards the ideal.

J. H. K.

**Parr, ROBERT J.** *Beyond the Law.* 40, Leicester Square, W.C.; 1909; pp. 16; 1d.

THE Director of the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children draws attention to some facts on illegitimacy in Ireland. The Bastardy Acts are not applicable to Ireland, and, at the present, there is no chance of obtaining from the putative father “reasonable relief at a time of great need, except under conditions that make it practically impossible for a poor woman to avail herself of them.” A number of cases are quoted to emphasise the importance of something being done to give to the unmarried Irish mother the same opportunities for redress, however limited, which her unfortunate English sister ‘enjoys.’

“An even greater wrong is being done to the children born under the triple disadvantage of shame, poverty and physical risk. Many are doomed from birth, others struggle through an enfeebled existence, and a certain proportion become a national encumbrance. National burdens caused by the necessity for caring for the unfit press heavily. One of the most effective means of lightening these burdens for the next and succeeding generations is, surely, to take such precautions as may be possible to prevent the number of the unfit from increasing in such proportions as they have hitherto been permitted to do.”

J. H. K.

**Platzhoff-Lejeune.** *Kinder-und Mutter-Rechtsschutz in der Schweiz.* “Die neue Generation,” VI. 5. 1910.

THE codification of German civil laws (*Bürgerliches Gesetzbuch*) will be followed in 1912 by the Swiss *Civilgesetzbuch*, which will replace the heterogeneous, and frequently mediæval cantonal laws by a federal civil code. A

new Swiss penal code (*Strafgesetzbuch*) has been in preparation for the last fifteen years, and will probably come into force in 1920. Both codes contain interesting provisions for the protection of mothers and children.

Equal rights for both parents will be substituted for the present paternal authority. In cases of incapacity, abuse or neglect, parental authority will be forfeited, and the Public Guardian (*Vormundschaftsbehörde*) will have the power to place the child with a responsible family or in an institution. Except in extraordinary cases a legal marriage cannot be contracted, even with the parents' consent, by females under the age of 18 and by males under 20. Illegitimate children will be legitimised by the subsequent marriage of the parents. On the decease of either or both parents the child can demand and obtain legitimisation. The new civil law will sanction the *recherche de la paternité*, and the mother will be entitled to reimbursement of expenses incidental to childbirth, to maintenance for eight weeks, and to an indemnification for the *tort moral*. The issue will have to be maintained and educated at the expense of the father until the age of 18, and will receive the name and civil (municipal or parochial) rights of the mother.

The new penal code has not reached the same stage of completion, however, some points under deliberation are of interest. Parents guilty of cruelty and neglect of their children will be subject to terms of imprisonment or penal servitude (*Zuchthaus*) ranging between a minimum of one month, and a maximum of ten years. Persons guilty of endangering a child's health through excessive employment will be liable to penalties up to 10,000 francs, or terms of imprisonment from six months to five years. The law, of course, will also contain clauses for the treatment of juvenile offenders, and for cases of indecent assault, the exploitation of children for begging, and for the sale of intoxicating liquors to persons under 16 years of age. Infanticide will be penalised by terms of imprisonment or penal servitude from six months to five years. This is more stringent than the modern Norwegian law. The active and passive practice of abortion will be severely dealt with. But we miss a provision for legalising abortion, or even mitigating the sentence, in cases of rape.

It is too much to hope that, some day, we, too, shall have a radical reform, not a mere tinkering, of our own legislation and jurisdiction. It seems still more futile to think that we shall ever be able to purchase our civil code in a handy volume at the price of a shilling.

J. H. K.

**Goldscheid, RUDOLF.** *Darwin als Lebenselement unserer modernen Kultur.* Hugo Heller & Co., Vienna and Leipzig; 1909; pp. 111.

'DARWIN was not only a great informer, he was not only a great reformer of science, he must be regarded as one of the greatest regenerators of human society that have ever lived.' The appreciation of Darwin's influence on scientific research, and especially on human thought and culture, is tempered with criticism. Everyone will admit that Darwin, like other mortals, was certainly not infallible, but we cannot agree with the author when he says that Darwin did not sufficiently appreciate the relation between quantity and quality of the offspring. The lack of material at that time naturally prevented Darwin from discussing this question as fully as he would have had the results of more recent research been at his disposal. But we do find the problem duly appreciated in the *Descent of Man*.

Herr Goldscheid is surely uttering a half-truth when he asserts that the higher an animal is organised, the less fertile it becomes. What about the organisation of ants and bees and their fertility? As Plate has pointed out, the contrast lies between fertility and care of offspring, e.g., fishes that have the habit of tending their offspring are markedly less fertile than other fishes on the same level of organisation that only spawn.